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ACT

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Supplement to the Sierra Leone Gazette Vol. CXXI, No. 68
dated 15th November, 1990

ENACTED this 15th day of November, 1990.

J. B. MOMOH,
President.



No. 7

1990

Sierra Leone

The Franchise and Electoral Registration (Amendment) Short title
Act, 1990

Being an Act to amend the Franchise and Electoral Registration Act,
1961

1990] Date of
Commence-
ment.

BE IT ENACTED by the President and Members of Parliament in
this present Parliament assembled, as follows:—

1. This Act shall be deemed to have come into force on the Commence-
ment
2nd day of January, 1990.

Amendment of Section 6 (1) of Act No. 44 of 1961.

2. Sub-section (1) of Section 6 of the Franchise and Electoral Registration Act, 1961 is amended by repealing the words "twenty-one years" appearing in the second and third lines and replacing them by the words "eighteen years".

Amendment of Section 9 (1) of Act No. 44 of 1961.

3. Sub-section (1) of Section 9 of the principal Act is amended by replacing the word "Minister" appearing in the first line, by the words "Electoral Commission" and by replacing the word "he" appearing in the second line thereof by the words "that Commission".

Repeal and replacement of Section 10 of Act No. 44 of 1961.

4. Section 10 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section:—

"Appointment of Assistant Registration Officers.

10. (1) The Electoral Commission may appoint fit and proper persons to be Assistant Registration Officers to assist them in the preparation of the Registers of Electors in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) Subject to the authority, direction and control of the Electoral Commission, an Assistant Registration Officer shall have all the powers and may perform any of the duties of a Registration Officer under this Act".

Repeal and replacement of Section 13 of Act No. 44 of 1961.

5. Section 13 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section:—

"Notice inviting claims of electors. Form A. First Schedule.

13. On the date specified in any order made under Section 12, every Registration Officer shall publish in each ward in respect of which he is appointed, a notice in the Form A in the First Schedule requiring within ten days of his publication of such notice every eligible elector to present himself for registration in the ward in respect of which the notice is published".

Repeal and replacement of Section 14 of Act No. 44 of 1961.

6. Section 14 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section:—

"Claim for registration

14. After the period of ten days specified in Section 13, every person who desires and is entitled to be registered as an elector in any ward shall present himself to the Registration Officer and shall produce to that Registration Officer such evidence as may be necessary to establish his eligibility to be so registered".

7. Section 15 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section:—

Repeal and replacement of Section 15 of Act No. 44 of 1961.

15. (1) The Registration Officer shall, where necessary, examine the qualifications of any person who desires to be registered and shall receive such evidence as may be necessary to satisfy himself that such person is qualified for registration under this Act.

Registration Officer to examine qualifications.

(2) Where a Registration Officer is satisfied that any person is qualified to be registered as an elector in the ward in respect of which he presents himself, the Registration Officer shall register that person in the manner hereinafter provided, otherwise he shall disallow such registration".

8. Section 16 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section:—

Repeal and replacement of Section 16 of Act No. 44 of 1961.

16. (1) The Electoral Commission or its Agent shall compile a provisional list of all electors for each ward and shall include in such list all persons qualified to be registered under the provisions of Section 15.

Copy of provisional list to be exhibited.

(2) As soon as it is expedient to do so, after the last day of presentation for registration as specified in Section 14, the Electoral Commission or its Agent shall cause to be made and exhibited in such places within each ward as may be deemed fit, a copy of the provisional list for that ward:

Provided that if it is expedient or deemed necessary to do so, the list or part of it may be exhibited in any sub-ward to which it relates"

9. Section 17 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section:—

Repeal and replacement of Section 17 of Act No. 44 of 1961.

17. (1) For the purpose of compiling provisional lists under the provisions of Section 16, the Electoral Commission or its Agents may—

Powers of Electoral Commission or its Agent.

(a) appoint field registrars in order to have a house to house or other sufficient inquiry made as to the persons entitled to be registered and such field registrars may perform such other duties connected with the registration of electors as may be assigned to them by the Electoral Commission or its Agents; and

(b) refer to existing Rate Books, Local Tax Assessment Lists and all other similar records relating to any area or ward, and any officer of a local authority or other person having the custody of any such records shall afford the Electoral Commission or its Agents every facility as may be required.

Offences and Penalties

(2) Any person who hinders or obstructs a field registrar in the execution of his duties under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten thousand leones or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both such fine and imprisonment."

Repeal and replacement of Section 18 of Act No. 44 of 1961.

10. Section 18 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section:—

Procedure as to omissions and objections.

18. (1) Any person whose name has been omitted from any copy of the provisional list of electors or part thereof, prepared and exhibited under the provisions of Section 16, and who claims to have his name inserted therein shall within ten days after the exhibition of such copy, or part thereof, apply or present himself to the Electoral Commission or its appointed Agents to have his name inserted in such copy.

(2) Any person whose name appears in any copy of the provisional list, or part thereof, may object to any other person whose name also appears therein as not being entitled to be registered as an elector and shall within ten days after the exhibition of such copy or part thereof, under the provisions of Section 16, give notice of this objection to the Electoral Commission or its appointed Agent and to the person objected to, giving reasons for his objection.

(3) Within 14 days of the expiration of the period of 10 days prescribed in subsection (2), the Electoral Commission shall cause to be prepared and exhibited in a place where a copy of the provisional list, or part of has been exhibited under the provisions of Section 16, a statement of all claims and objections in respect of such copy or part thereof, giving the names of the persons who have made the claims or objections".

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Franchise and Electoral Registration

1990

11. The Form A in the First Schedule to the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new Form A.

Repeal and replacement of Form A in the First Schedule.

FIRST SCHEDULE
FORM A

(Section 13)

FRANCHISE AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION ACT, 1961
NOTICE TO ELECTORS

1. Every person who desires and is entitled to be registered as an elector in a ward of the..... Constituency is requested to present himself to the Registration Officer at..... on or before the..... day of..... 199.....

Date.....
Registration Officer

Passed in Parliament this 1st day of November, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and ninety.

M. T. BETTS-PRIDDY,
Acting Clerk of Parliament.

THIS PRINTED IMPRESSION has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed Parliament and found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.

M. T. BETTS-PRIDDY,
Acting Clerk of Parliament.

PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING DEPARTMENT, SIERRA LEONE
GAZETTE No. 68 of 19th November, 1990.

ACTS

Supplement to the Sierra Leone Gazette Extraordinary Vol. CXXI, No. 78
dated 24th December, 1990

Signed this 21st day of December, 1990.

J. S. MOMOH,
President.

(LS)

No. 8



Sierra Leone

1990

The Electoral Provisions (Amendment) Act, 1990

Short title.

Being an Act to amend the Electoral Provisions Act, 1962

Date of
enactment.

BE IT ENACTED by the President and Members of Parliament in this present Parliament assembled, as follows:—

1. Section 2 of the Electoral Provisions Act, 1962 is hereby amended—

Amendment
of Section
2 of Act No.
14 of 1962.

(a) by the insertion immediately before the definition of "bye-election" of the following new definition--

"ballot paper" means the printed form used for the purpose of voting for a candidate;

(b) by the insertion immediately after the definition of "nomination paper" of the following new definition--

"official mark" means an official secret mark (if any be prescribed by the Electoral Commission) impressed upon a ballot paper before delivery to an elector at an election;

Repeal and replacement of Section 3 of Act No. 14 of 1962.

2. Section 3 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section--

"Composition of Parliament.

Act No. 12 of 1978.

3. The Composition of Parliament shall be as prescribed in section 43 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1978 and shall include such other Members of Parliament as may be appointed by the President.

Repeal and replacement of Section 10 of Act No. 14 of 1962.

3. Section 10 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new Section--

"Appointment of Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers.

10. (1) Whenever a time is appointed for an election under the provisions of section 6 or the Minister or other authority declares or appoints a date or dates for an election for membership of a local Authority under the provisions of any Act, the Electoral Commission shall, by notice published in the Gazette, appoint a fit and proper person, who shall not be a candidate, to be Returning Officer for the electoral area in respect of which the election is to take place.

(2) The Electoral Commission may also appoint any number of fit and proper persons, none of whom shall be a candidate, to be Assistant Returning Officers who shall, subject to any special or general directions of the Returning Officer, have all the powers and may perform any of the duties of a Returning Officer.

(3) An Assistant Returning Officer shall have all the powers of a Presiding Officer and may, if he thinks fit, relieve a Presiding Officer of his duties at any polling station and in such event may appoint a Polling Assistant to be Presiding Officer.

(4) Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers shall comply with any general or special directions, not inconsistent with this Act or with any Regulations made thereunder, which may be given by the Electoral Commission with respect to the arrangements to be made by such officers for carrying out their duties under this Act."

4. Section 13 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section—

*Payment of the sum of Le 10,000.00

13. (1) Every candidate for an election as an ordinary Member of Parliament under paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 43 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1978 shall, at the time when his nomination paper is delivered at the office of the Returning Officer in accordance with Section 12, pay or cause to be paid to the Returning Officer the sum of ten thousand leones or a written receipt issued by or on behalf of the Accountant-General for ten thousand leones received from or on account of that candidate in respect of that sum and the nomination shall not be valid until the payment has been made.

Repeal and replacement of Section 13 of Act No. 14 of 1962.

(2) The payment shall be non-refundable and shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund."

5. Sections 22 to 50 of the principal Act are repealed and replaced by the following new sections—

*Electoral Commission to make arrangements for contested elections.

22. (1) The Electoral Commission shall make arrangements for the holding of a contested election at the time and place notified under Section 11.

Repeal and replacement of Sections 22 to 50 of Act No. 14 of 1962.

(2) The Electoral Commission shall—

(a) Provide one or more polling stations in each electoral area and allot the voters within the electoral area to the polling stations in such manner as it thinks most convenient;

(b) on or before the fourth day before the day of election—give notice of the election in such manner as it may think fit, specifying—

(i) the day and hours fixed for voting;

4 days notice polling hours

- (k) the full name, address and occupation of each candidate, together with a description of the symbol which the Electoral Commission has allotted to each candidate;
- (iii) the full names, addresses and occupations of the persons who nominated each candidate; and
- (iv) the situation of the polling station or stations and a statement of the persons entitled to vote thereat;
- (e) appoint such person as it may think fit, other than a candidate for election, or a nominator of any such candidate, to be in charge of each polling station who shall be known as the Presiding Officer and who shall be under the direction of the Electoral Commission and who shall have all the powers conferred upon a Polling Assistant by this Act;
- (d) appoint in respect of each electoral area such persons as it may think fit, other than any candidate for election, or a nominator of any such candidate, to assist at the voting in the election who shall be known as Polling Assistants, and who shall be under the direction of the Presiding Officer;
- (a) (i) provide each Presiding Officer with a ballot box for each polling station in the electoral area and such number of ballot papers as in the opinion of the Presiding Officer may be necessary;
- (ii) ensure that each candidate shall provide the Presiding Officer with photographs of himself measuring not more than the standard A4 size and the Presiding Officer

4 Day

shall affix one photograph together with the symbol of that candidate on the wall of each polling booth where the elector goes alone to place his mark.

- (f) provide the Presiding Officer at each polling station with instruments for making an official mark on the ballot papers;
- (g) provide the Presiding Officer at each polling station with copies of the Register of Electors or such part thereof as contains the names of the electors allotted to vote at such polling station;
- (h) cause to be published in each polling station the photograph of every candidate together with the symbol which the Electoral Commission has allotted to each candidate for whom a vote can be cast at such polling station;
- (i) do such other acts and things as may be necessary for conducting the election in the manner provided in this Act.

23. (1) Each nominated candidate may appoint two persons (hereinafter referred to as "polling agents") to attend at each polling station within the electoral area for which he is a candidate, for the purpose of detecting personation and making representations to Polling Assistants under the provisions of paragraph (e) of section 26, or to the Presiding Officer under the provisions of subsection (1) of section 20; and generally for drawing the attention of the Presiding Officer to irregularities in the procedure at a polling station.

(2) Notice in writing of the appointment, stating the names and addresses of the polling agents, together with the polling stations to which they have been assigned, shall be given by the candidate to the Returning Officer not later than three days before the first day appointed for the election and before four o'clock in the afternoon of the last day for the delivery of the notice.

(3) If any polling agent dies or becomes incapable of acting as such, the candidate may appoint another polling agent in his place, and shall give to the Returning Officer due notice in writing of the name and address of the polling agent so appointed.

(4) A candidate may do any act or thing which his polling agent is authorised to do under subsection (1).

Precautions to ensure secrecy.

24. (1) Every ballot box shall be so constructed that the ballot papers can be put therein by the voter but cannot by him be withdrawn.

(2) The Presiding Officer shall cause to be placed at each polling station a ballot box in which shall be deposited the votes of the elections.

(3) Immediately before the commencement of voting the Polling Officer at each polling station shall show the ballot box empty to such persons as may be lawfully present so that they may see that it is empty and shall in such person's presence close and place distinctive seals upon the ballot box in such manner as to prevent the ballot box being opened without breaking the seals and shall keep it so closed and sealed until the voting is completed and counting commenced.

(4) The Presiding Officer shall place the ballot box which he shall have caused to be prepared under this section, in the Polling Station in full view of the Presiding Officer, the Polling Assistants, the Polling Agents, as the case may be, and such other persons as authorised to be present in the Polling Station throughout the voting time prescribed.

Hours of voting.

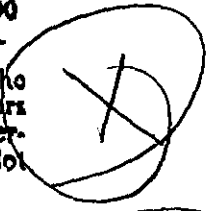
25. The Hours of voting shall be from seven o'clock in the morning to six o'clock in the afternoon, and no ballot paper may be placed in any ballot box outside these hours of voting.

Manner of voting.

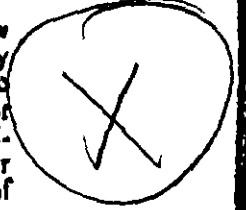
26. The voting at an election shall be conducted in the following manner—

(a) Every elector desiring to record his vote shall present himself to a Polling Assistant at the polling station at which he is entitled to vote, and the Polling Assistant, after satisfying himself that—

(iv) the number of the elector in the copy of the Register of Electors shall be marked on the counter-foil of the ballot paper or ballot papers.



(v) a mark shall be placed against the number of the elector in the copy of the Register of Electors to denote that a ballot paper or ballot papers have been delivered, but without stating or showing the printed number of the ballot paper or ballot papers which have been delivered.



(c) A Polling Assistant may, and, if required by a candidate or polling agent, shall put to any persons applying for a ballot paper or papers at the time of his application, but not afterwards, the following questions, or any of them—

(i) "Are you the person whose name is on the Register of Electors as (reading the entry in the Register)?"

(ii) "Have you already voted at the present election at this or any other polling station?"

(d) No person who is required by the Polling Assistant to answer these questions, or either of them, shall be provided with a ballot paper or allowed to vote until he has answered the same to the satisfaction of the Presiding Officer.

(e) An elector, if the Electoral Commission so direct, immediately before receiving a ballot paper, shall submit to having his left thumb or a finger of the left hand marked with indelible ink.

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- (f) The elector shall then go alone to the booth or enclosure, put his mark against the symbol of the candidate of his choice secretly and then come out of the booth or enclosure with his ballot paper folded which he will then cast in full view of everyone present.
- (g) An elector who has accidentally dealt with a ballot paper in such manner that it cannot conveniently be used as a valid ballot paper may, on delivering such ballot paper, and any other ballot paper issued to him bearing the same serial number to the Presiding Officer and after satisfying the Presiding Officer that the ballot paper has been spoiled by accident, obtain another ballot paper or other ballot papers in the place of the ballot paper or ballot papers so delivered up, and the spoiled ballot paper or ballot papers and any other ballot paper bearing the same number shall be immediately cancelled by the Presiding Officer writing the word "CANCELLED" across the face of the same, and the Presiding Officer shall preserve all such cancelled ballot papers and shall deliver them to the Returning Officer as hereinafter mentioned.
- (h) (i) An elector shall not place on the ballot paper any writing or mark by which he may be identified.
- (ii) For the purpose of subparagraph (i), a fingerprint or other mark caused by merely handling a ballot paper shall not be regarded as a mark of identification.
- (i) If any elector, by reason of blindness, or other physical disability, is unable to cast his vote or votes in person, he

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may call the Presiding Officer or the Assistant Returning Officer aside and inform him, no other person being within hearing, of the name or names of the candidate or candidates for whom he wishes to vote, and the Presiding Officer or Polling Assistant shall record that elector's vote by placing a mark on the ballot paper against the symbol signifying the elector's choice.

- (1) If on the day of voting an elector will be engaged on official duties in connection with the election, which a Returning Officer is satisfied will preclude the elector from recording his vote, such Returning Officer may, on application by such elector, made not less than seven days before the day or days appointed for voting at the polling station at which the elector is entitled to vote, provide such elector with a certificate of authorisation in a form approved by the Electoral Commission to authorise the Presiding Officer of the Polling Station at which the elector is entitled to vote to record the vote or votes of such elector. The elector shall insert in the appropriate place in the certificate the name or names of the candidate or candidates for whom he wishes to record his vote or votes and the Returning Officer shall then seal the certificate in the presence of the elector and cause it to be transmitted to the Presiding Officer authorised to record the vote or votes, as the case may be. A Presiding Officer on the day of voting, shall record the vote or votes, for the recording of which he has an authority given in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph, in conformity with the directions contained in such authority.

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1990

(k) A civil servant or an employee of a public corporation or commercial firm or mining company or mission or a member of the Sierra Leone Police Force or the Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces if transferred by his employer or superior officer to a place of employment in another constituency between the time of his registration under the provisions of the Franchise and Electoral Registration Act, 1961, and the time of the next general election for members of Parliament after such registration may, not less than seven days before a poll is appointed to be taken at the station at which he is entitled to vote, apply to the Returning Officer, who, if he is satisfied that that application is well founded and supported by the written confirmation of the employer or superior officer that the employee was so transferred, shall provide the elector making such application with the certificate of authorisation described in the paragraph (j); and the elector and the Returning Officer shall then act as set out in that paragraph and the appropriate Presiding Officer shall record that elector's vote.

displaced station.

27. Every ballot paper shall have a number printed thereon and shall be attached to a counter-foil bearing the same number as is printed on the ballot paper. The ballot paper shall be numbered in such manner that no elector shall receive ballot papers bearing the same numbers as any ballot papers delivered to any other elector in that electoral area.

Numbering of ballot papers.

28. Every voter shall vote without undue delay and shall quit the polling station as soon as he has put his ballot paper in the ballot box.

Voting to be without delay.

29. (1) No person shall be permitted to vote at any polling station other than the one allocated to him under the provisions of paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 22.

Admission of persons to polling stations.

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(2) The Presiding Officer shall regulate the admission of electors to the polling station, and shall exclude all other persons except candidates, polling agents, polling Assistant, constables on duty, and any other person who in his opinion has lawful reason to be admitted.

(3) Every elector present in a polling station shall comply with any directions of the Presiding Officer for regulating the casting of votes and generally shall conduct himself in an orderly manner.

Personation.

30. (1) If at the time a person applies for a ballot paper or after he has so applied and before he has left the polling station, a polling agent declares to the Presiding Officer that he has reasonable cause to believe that the applicant has committed the offence of personation and undertakes to substantiate the charge in a court of law or, if the Presiding Officer himself has reasonable cause to believe that an applicant for a ballot paper has committed the offence of personation, the Presiding Officer may order a constable to arrest such person and the order of the Presiding Officer shall be sufficient authority for the constable to do so.

(2) A person in respect of whom a polling agent makes a declaration in accordance with subsection (1) of this section or whom the Presiding Officer has reasonable cause to believe has committed the offence of personation shall not, by reason thereof, be prevented from voting; but the Presiding Officer shall cause the words "Protested against for personation" to be placed against his name in the marked copy of the Register of Electors or part thereof:

Provided that where a person in respect of whom such declaration is made admits to the Presiding Officer that he is not the person he held himself out to be, he shall not be permitted to vote if he has not already done so, and if he has already voted, the Presiding Officer shall make a note of the number of the ballot paper delivered to him, and upon the count being taken, such ballot paper shall be invalid.

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1990

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(i) the name of such elector appears in the copy of the Register of Electors, or part thereof, provided for that polling station; and

(ii) he has not already voted; shall deliver to him a ballot paper and the elector shall proceed to the polling booth where in secret he shall mark the ballot paper:

Provided that the Presiding Officer may, before any ballot paper is delivered to the elector, require the elector to submit to being searched in private by a person appointed by the Presiding Officer for the purpose of ensuring that no ballot paper relating to the election is already in his possession, and if the elector in such case does not submit to a search he shall not be entitled to receive a ballot paper or to vote; and provided that no female elector shall be searched except by a female.

(b) Immediately before the Polling Assistant delivers a ballot paper to an elector—

(i) he shall call out the elector's serial ward number and his name and address as stated in the Register of Electors;

(ii) he shall examine the elector's left hand for traces of the ink (if any) referred to in paragraph (c), and if he is satisfied that there are such traces he shall not deliver any ballot paper to that elector;

(iii) he shall mark the ballot paper or papers with any official mark which may be prescribed by the Electoral Commission;

(3) A person arrested under the provisions of this section shall be deemed to be a person taken into custody by a constable for an offence in respect of which he may be arrested without a warrant.

31. If a person representing himself to be an elector named in the Register of Electors applies for a ballot paper after another person has voted as such elector, the applicant shall, upon giving satisfactory answers to the questions set out in paragraph (c) of section 26, be entitled to receive a ballot paper or ballot papers as the case may be, and record his vote or votes in the same manner as any other elector, but every such ballot paper (hereinafter called a tendered ballot paper) shall be of a colour differing from the other ballot papers.

Tendered ballot papers.

32. (1) The Presiding Officer shall keep order in the polling station:

Conduct in polling stations.

(2) If any person misconducts himself in a polling station or fails to obey any lawful order of the Presiding Officer, such person may, by order of the Presiding Officer, be removed from the polling station by any constable, or by any other person authorized in writing by the Presiding Officer in that behalf; and the person so removed shall not, without the permission of the Presiding Officer, again enter the polling station during the day of the election; and any person so removed may, if the Presiding Officer considers it necessary, be arrested and charged with the commission of an offence in such polling station and shall be deemed to be a person taken into custody by a constable for an offence in respect of which he may be arrested without a warrant:

Provided that the provisions of this section shall not be exercised so as to prevent any elector who is otherwise entitled to vote at any polling station from having an opportunity of so voting.

33. (1) On the day appointed for an election, or where the time appointed for an election consists of a number of days, on the last day for voting appointed under the provisions of section 9, the Presiding Officer at each polling station shall, at the expiration of the hours of voting prescribed by or under the provisions of section 25, close the polling station and

Despatch of ballot boxes, etc. to Returning Officer.

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cease to receive any votes and shall as soon as is practicable thereafter, in the presence of any polling agents in attendance, make up into separate packets, each sealed with his own seal—

- (a) the ballot box in use at the polling station, unopened and sealed so as to prevent the introduction of additional ballot papers;
- (b) any certificates he has received under paragraphs (j) and (k) of section 26;
- (c) the unused and spoiled ballot papers, placed together;
- (d) the tendered ballot papers in separate packets relating to each candidate;
- (e) the marked copies of the Register of Electors of the part thereof;

and shall deliver the packets to the Returning Officer.

Form D
First Schedule.

(2) The packets shall be accompanied by a statement to be called the Ballot Papers Account, which shall be in the Form D prescribed in the First Schedule, prepared by the Presiding Officer showing the number of ballot papers entrusted to him and accounting for them under the following heads—

- (a) number of spoiled ballot papers; and
- (b) number of unused ballot papers; and
- (c) number of persons marked on the Register of Electors as having been issued with a ballot paper.

Counting Agents.

34. (1) Each candidate shall appoint one person, hereinafter referred to as a counting agent, for each polling station to attend at the counting of votes.

(2) Notice in writing of the appointment, stating the name and address of the counting agent, shall be given by the candidate to the Returning Officer not later than three days before the last day of the election and before four o'clock in the afternoon

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of the last day for the delivery of the notice; and the Returning Officer may refuse to admit to the place where the votes are counted any person purporting to be a counting agent in respect of whom such notice has not been given.

(3) If a counting agent dies or becomes incapable of acting as such, the candidate shall appoint another counting agent in his place, and shall immediately give to the Returning Officer notice in writing of the name and address of the counting agent so appointed.

35. (1) At the time and place appointed for counting the Returning Officer, after the receipt of the ballot box from the Presiding Officer in the polling station shall then open the ballot box and taking out the ballot papers, cause them to be counted, subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of section 30 and of sections 37 and 38, and the number of valid ballot papers to be recorded, but so that the ballot papers of each candidate shall be kept separate from the ballot papers of the other candidates. Counting of votes.

(2) From the time of delivery of the sealed packets by the Presiding Officer under the provisions of subsection (1) of section 33 until the counting of votes the Returning Officer shall keep such packets in safe custody.

36. Except with the consent of the Returning Officer, no person other than the Counting Officer, Counting Assistants, Polling Staff, the candidates and their counting agents may be present at the counting of votes. Persons who may be present at counting of votes.

37. At any counting of votes in terms of subsection (1) of section 35, any ballot paper— Void ballot papers.

- (a) which bears a number or mark or variation indicating that it was issued for use at a polling station other than that at which it was used to vote; or
- (b) which bears the same number as another ballot paper found in the same ballot box and which has already been counted; or

(c) not bearing any official mark (if any such mark has been prescribed by the Electoral Commission); or

(d) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter may be identified (other than a fingerprint) except the printed number thereon;

shall not be counted.

Rejection of void ballot papers.

38. (1) The Returning Officer shall endorse the word "Rejected" on any ballot paper which, under the provisions of section 37, is not counted. The Returning Officer shall add the word "Rejection objected to" if an objection to his decision is made by any counting agent.

(2) the Returning Officer shall not allow any tendered ballot paper to be counted as a vote in favour of any candidate.

Returning Officer's decision final.

39. The decision of the Returning Officer as to any question arising in respect of any ballot paper shall be final and subject to review only on an election petition questioning the election.

40. (1) A candidate or his counting agent may, if present when the counting or any recount of the votes is completed, require the Returning Officer to have the votes recounted or again recounted but the Returning Officer may refuse to do so if in his opinion the request is unreasonable.

(2) No step shall be taken on the completion of the counting or any re-count of votes until the candidates and counting agents present at the completion thereof have been given a reasonable opportunity to exercise the right conferred by this section.

Equality of votes.

41. Where an equality of votes is found to exist between any candidates and the addition of a vote would entitle any one of them to be declared elected, the Returning Officer shall order a re-count of the votes cast. If there be again an equality of votes, as ascertained by such re-count, there shall be a second casting of votes, and if there are more than two candidates, the first two Candidates obtaining the highest votes shall be the only Candidates entitled to offer themselves for the second voting.

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42. Upon the conclusion of the counting of the votes the Returning Officer shall seal up in separate packets (a) the counted and (b) the rejected and tendered ballot papers, the ballot papers for each candidate being kept separate from those of any other candidate as each packet shall be endorsed on the outside by the Returning Officer with the name of the candidate for whom the votes represented by the ballot papers therein were cast. He shall not open the sealed packet containing the marked copy of the Register of Electors nor the sealed packets containing the counterfoils of used ballot papers, but shall proceed, in the presence of the counting agents, to verify the ballot paper account given by each Presiding Officer by comparing it with the number of ballot papers counted or rejected in accordance with section 35 and the unused and spoilt papers in his possession, and shall reseal each packet after examination. The Returning Officer shall prepare a statement as to the result of the verification and showing the number of ballot papers rejected, which shall be in the Form E prescribed in the First Schedule and shall, on request by any counting agent, allow him to copy the statement. The Returning Officer shall receive results of counted ballot papers from the Counting Officer from each polling station.

Returning Officer's duties at conclusion of counting.

Form E First Schedule.

43. When the result of the election has been ascertained, the Returning Officer shall—

Declaration of results.

- (a) forthwith declare to be elected the candidate or candidates, as the case may be, for whom the majority of votes has been cast;
- (b) forthwith publish at the place of counting, the number of votes cast in favour of each candidate and the name or names of the candidates whom he has declared to be elected;
- (c) send notification of election in writing to the successful candidate or candidates;

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(d) deliver personally to the Secretary of the Electoral Commission the sealed packages containing the voting papers and all other documents relating to the election, including all forms whether used or unused; and

(e) (i) in the case of an election to Parliament certify to the Electoral Commission in writing the result of the election; or

(ii) in the case of an election to a Local Authority, inform the Minister and the Electoral Commission in writing of the result of the election.

Publication of results.

44. (1) The Electoral Commission, on receipt of the results of an election in accordance with section 43 shall forthwith cause to be published in the Gazette the result of the election, together with the number of votes recorded for each candidate.

(2) The Secretary of the Electoral Commission shall retain in safe custody the voting papers and other documents transmitted to him under seal by the Returning Officer for a period of six months on the expiration of which period he shall destroy such of them as are not required for the investigation or trial of any election petition or offence.

Power of Polling Assistants.

45. A Polling Assistant may be authorised by the Presiding Officer to do any act which the Presiding Officer is required or authorised to do at a polling station by this Act, except that he may not order the arrest or search of any person, or the exclusion or removal of any person from the polling station.

Candidate has power of his agent.

46. A candidate may do any act or thing which his agent would have been authorised or required to do, and may assist his agent in the doing of any such act or thing.

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47. Where in this Act any act or thing is required or authorised to be done in the presence of the candidates or polling or counting agents, the non-attendance of any candidate or agent or agents at the time and place appointed for the purpose shall not, if the act or thing is otherwise duly done, invalidate the act or thing done.

Non-attendance of candidate or agents not to invalidate.

48. The Returning Officer, Assistant Returning Officers, Presiding Officers and Polling Assistants shall receive such reasonable remuneration for their services as the Minister shall authorise, on the recommendation of the Electoral Commission.

Remuneration of Returning Officer, etc

49. (1) All expenses properly incurred by the Returning Officer in the conduct of the election, the remuneration of the officers specified in section 48 and, except where the proceedings result from the act or omission of the Returning Officer done otherwise than in the *bona fide* performance of his duty under this Act, any expenses incurred by a Returning Officer in any legal proceedings arising in connection with an election held under the provisions of this Act shall be a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Expenses of the election.

(2) Upon the determination of any legal proceedings arising in connection with an election under the provisions of this Act, the High Court shall, if a Returning Officer is a party thereto, certify whether or not such proceedings result from an act or omission of the Returning Officer done otherwise than in the *bona fide* performance of his duty under this Act.

Secretary of voting.

50. No person who has voted at an election shall, in any legal proceedings arising out of the election, be required to state for whom he voted."

6. Subsection (3) of Section 52 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new subsection—

Repeal and replacement of Section 52 (3) of Act No. 14 of 1962.

"(3) Before so issuing a ballot paper the Polling Assistant shall place a mark against the number of the Elector in the *Gazette* List to denote that a ballot paper has been delivered to him, but without showing the number of the ballot paper which has been issued."

Repeal and replacement of Section 60 of Act No. 14 of 1982.

7. Section 60 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new Section—

"Security for costs

60. (1) At the time of presenting an election petition the petitioner shall give security for the payment of all costs, charges and expenses which may become payable by him to any witnesses summoned on his behalf or to any respondent.

(2) The security shall be of such an amount (not exceeding one hundred thousand leones) and shall be given in such a manner as the court may order.

(3) No proceedings shall be heard on the petition if the petitioner fails to give the security for costs prescribed by subsection (2) of this section."

Repeal and replacement of Section 61 of Act No. 14 of 1982.

8. Section 61 of the principal Act is hereby repealed and replaced by the following new section—

"Trial of election petition.

61. (1) Every election petition shall be tried by a Judge of the High Court in open Court.

(2) During such trial the Court may order—

(a) the inspection and production of any rejected ballot papers; or

(b) the inspection of any counted ballot papers;

Provided that in making and carrying into effect the order, care shall be taken that the way in which the vote of any particular elector has been given shall not be disclosed until it has been proved that his vote was given and the vote has been declared by the Court to be invalid.

(3) At the conclusion of the trial, the Court shall determine whether the person whose return or election is complained of was duly returned or elected, or whether the election was void, and shall certify such determination as provided in subsection (2) of section 57 where the question decided concerns an election to Parliament, or, where such question concerns an election to a Local Authority, the Court shall certify its determination to the Minister and the Electoral Commission."

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9. Section 73 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section—

Offences in respect of nomination paper, ballot papers, etc.

Replacement of Section 73 of Act No 14 of 1962.

73. (1) Every person who—

- (a) forces or fraudulently defaces or fraudulently destroys any nomination paper, or delivers to any person or authority to whom nomination papers are required by this Act or any regulations made hereunder to be delivered, any nomination paper knowing the same to be forged; or
- (b) signs a nomination paper as candidate in more than one constituency; or
- (c) forges or counterfeits or fraudulently defaces or fraudulently destroys any ballot paper or any official mark on any ballot paper; or
- (d) without due authority, supplies any ballot paper to any person; or
- (e) fraudulently puts into any ballot box any paper other than a ballot paper which he is authorised by law to put in; or
- (f) without the authority of the Presiding Officer brings into or takes out of any polling station, place of voting or place of election, any ballot paper; or
- (g) without due authority destroys, takes, opens, or otherwise interferes with any ballot box or packet of ballot papers then in use for the purposes of the election; or
- (h) unlawfully votes for more candidates than one or records more than one vote in favour of any candidate;

shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand leones or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

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(2) Any attempt to commit an offence specified in this section shall be punishable in the manner in which the offence itself is punishable.

(3) In any prosecution for an offence in relation to the nomination papers, ballot box, ballot papers, marking instruments and other things in use at an election, the property in such papers, box, instruments and things may be stated to be in the Returning Officer at such election.

Replacement of Section 82 of Act No. 14 of 1962.

10. Section 82 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section—

"Penalty for certain illegal practices.

82. Every person who—

- (a) votes or induces or procures any person to vote at any election under this Act knowing that he or such other person is prohibited by this Act or by any other law from voting at such election; or
- (b) before or during an election under this Act knowingly publishes a false statement of the withdrawal of a candidate at such election for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of another candidate;

shall be guilty of an illegal practice and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand leones and be incapable during a period of five years from the date of his conviction of being registered as an elector or voting at any election."

Replacement of Section 83 of Act No. 14 of 1962.

11. Section 83 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section—

"Use of fetish, etc.

83. Every person who—

- (a) (i) swears or administers any oath otherwise than for the purpose of any legal proceedings, whether or not such oath is recognised as lawful by the customary laws;
- (ii) or administers, invokes or makes any other use of any fetish; or
- (iii) makes any other invocation; or
- (iv) purports to cast any spell; and relates any such act to or connects any such act with the voting or

refraining from voting by any person at any election held under this Act; or

(b) on the day or days of voting beats a drum or employs any other means of calling attention or of promulgating public message normally used by the Paramount Chief of the Tribal Authority for public purposes, accompanied by any statement or announcement relating to or connected with the voting or refraining from voting by any person at any election held under this Act, other than an announcement or statement of the date, time, and place at which the voting is to take place; or

(c) threatens to do any of the things referred to in paragraph (a); shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand leones or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to both such fine and imprisonment, and shall be incapable for a period of five years from the date of conviction, of being registered as an elector or of voting at any election held under this Act, and of being elected as a Member of Parliament or of any Local Authority, or, if elected before his conviction, of retaining his seat as such Member."

12. Section 84 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following new section—

Repeal and replacement of Section 84 of Act No. 14 of 1962.

"Symbols and emblems of candidates.

84. (1) The Electoral Commission, its agents or any candidate may display symbols and emblems of the candidate within the vicinity of the place of voting:

Provided that no person shall, within four hundred yards of the place of voting, make any public address indicating his support for a particular candidate.

Offence and penalty.

(2) Any person acting in contravention of this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten thousand leones or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both such fine and imprisonment."

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General amendment to Act No. 14 of 1962.

13. The principal Act is amended as follows--

- (a) by the substitution of the words "ballot paper" for the words "ballot token" wherever they appear in the Act;
- (b) by the substitution of the words "ballot papers" for the words "ballot tokens" wherever they appear in the Act;
- (c) by the substitution of the word "papers" for the word "tokens" wherever such word relates to ballot.

Replacement of Forms D and E of First Schedule to Act No. 14 of 1962.

14. Forms D and E of the First Schedule to the principal Act are hereby repealed and replaced by the following new Forms--

FORM D (Sections 33 (2) and 55 (a))

ELECTIONS

ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ACT, 1962
BALLOT PAPERS ACCOUNT

To the Returning Officer:.....

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
Serial numbers provided (to be completed by the Returning Officer)	Serial numbers unused	Serial numbers spoilt	Number of persons marked on Register of Electors or Gazette List as being issued with Ballot Papers.

Date:.....

Signature of Presiding Officer/ Returning Officer.

.....Polling Station

.....Electoral Area

*(State the nature of the elections here)

*(Delete inappropriate)

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FORM E (Section 42 and 55 (c))

•..... **ELECTIONS**

**ELECTIONS PROVISIONS ACT, 1962
 VERIFICATION OF BALLOT PAPERS**

**..... Constituency/District/Ward

No. of Ballot papers issued to Polling Station

Station.....

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Ballots</i>
(1) No. of ballot papers cast for
(2) No. of ballot papers cast for
(3) No. of ballot papers cast for
.....
.....
No. of ballot papers spoilt
No. of ballot papers unused
No. of ballot papers rejected, under categories (b) and (c) below:
	Total

REJECTED BALLOT PAPERS

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
No. cast for candidate No. (1)
No. cast for candidate No. (2)
No. cast for candidate No. (3)
.....
.....
.....
	Totals

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- (a) bearing a number not included amongst those issued to the station;
- (b) bearing the same number as another ballot paper found in the same candidate's box and which has already been counted;
- (c) not bearing the official mark (if any has been prescribed); cast by an admitted impersonator, or bearing identification mark other than a finger print or printed number;
- (d) tendered ballot papers.

Date:

.....
(Signature of Returning Officer.)

*(State nature of election here)

** (Delete where inappropriate)

Passed in Parliament this 15th day of November, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and ninety.

M. T. BETTS-PRIDDY,
Acting Clerk of Parliament.

THIS PRINTED IMPRESSION has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed Parliament and found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.

M. T. BETTS-PRIDDY,
Acting Clerk of Parliament

(6) In determining the appropriate "majority of all Members of Parliament" account shall only be taken of the persons actually and validly existing as Members of Parliament at the relevant time.

CHAPTER IV—THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE

31. Every citizen of Sierra Leone being eighteen years of age and above and of sound mind shall have the right to vote, and accordingly shall be entitled to be registered as a voter for the purposes of public elections and referenda. Registra-
tion of
voters.

32. (1) There shall be an Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone. Electoral
Com-
mission.

(2) The members of the Electoral Commission shall be a Chief Electoral Commissioner, who shall be Chairman, and four other members who shall be known as Electoral Commissioners.

(3) The members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the leaders of all registered political parties and subject to the approval of Parliament.

(4) A person shall not be qualified—

(a) for appointment as a member of the Electoral Commission if he is not qualified to be elected as a Member of Parliament, or

(b) to hold office as a member of the Electoral Commission if he is a Minister, a Deputy Minister, a Member of Parliament, or a public officer, or if he has attained the age of sixty-five years.

(5) The terms and conditions of service of members of the Electoral Commission shall be such as Parliament shall prescribe.

(6) A member of the Electoral Commission shall before assuming the functions of his office, take and subscribe before the President the Oath as set out in the Third Schedule to this Constitution.

(7) Subject to the provisions of this section, a member of the Electoral Commission shall vacate his office—

(a) at the expiration of five years from the date of his appointment; or

(b) on attaining the age of sixty-five years; or

(c) if any circumstances arise which, if he were not a member of the Commission, would cause him to be disqualified for appointment as such.

(8) A member of the Electoral Commission may be removed from office by the President for inability to discharge the functions of his office (whether arising from infirmity of mind or body or any other cause) or for misbehaviour.

(9) A member of the Electoral Commission shall not be removed from office except in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(10) Whenever a member of the Electoral Commission dies, resigns, is removed from office, or is absent from Sierra Leone, or is by reason of illness or any other cause unable to perform the functions of his office, the President may appoint a person who is qualified to be appointed Electoral Commissioner and any person so appointed shall, subject to the provisions of subsections (6) and (7), continue to perform those functions until his appointment is revoked by the President, or until the Electoral Commissioner is able to perform those functions, or until the appointment of a new Electoral Commissioner.

(11) In the exercise of any functions vested in it by this Constitution, the Electoral Commission shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.

(12) The Chief Electoral Commissioner shall submit a report on the programme and work of the Electoral Commission at least once a year to the President and a copy of such report shall be laid before Parliament.

Functions of the Electoral Commission.

33. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Electoral Commission shall be responsible for the conduct and supervision of the registration of voters for, and of, all public elections and referenda; and for that purpose shall have power to make regulations by statutory instrument for the registration of voters, the conduct of Presidential, Parliamentary or Local Government elections and referenda, and other matters connected therewith, including regulations for voting by proxy.

Political Parties Registration Commission.

34. (1) There shall be a Political Parties Registration Commission which shall consist of four members appointed by the President, namely—

(a) the Chairman of the Commission, who shall be a person who has held judicial office or is qualified to be appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of Judicature nominated by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission;

(b) the Chief Electoral Commissioner;

(c) a legal practitioner nominated by the Sierra Leone Bar Association; and

(d) a member nominated by the Sierra Leone Labour Congress.

(2) The members of the Commission, other than the Chief Electoral Commissioner, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of Parliament.

(3) The Administrator and Registrar-General shall be Secretary to the Commission.

(4) The Commission shall be responsible for the registration of all political parties and for that purpose may make such regulations as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities under this Constitution:

Provided that the first registration of political parties after the coming into force of this Constitution shall be undertaken by the Electoral Commission.

(5) In the exercise of any functions vested in it by this Constitution, the Commission shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority, save only as regards the right to appeal contained in section 35.

35. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, political parties may be established to participate in shaping the political will of the people, to disseminate information on political ideas, and social and economic programmes of a national character, and to sponsor candidates for Presidential, Parliamentary or Local Government elections. Registration and conduct of political parties.

(2) The internal organisation of a political party shall conform to democratic principles, and its aims, objectives, purposes and programmes shall not contravene, or be inconsistent with, any provisions of this Constitution.

(3) A statement of the sources of income and the audited accounts of a political party, together with a statement of its assets and liabilities, shall be submitted annually to the Political Parties Registration Commission, but no such account shall be audited by a member of the political party whose account is submitted.

(4) No political party shall have as a leader a person who is not qualified to be elected as a Member of Parliament.

(5) No association, by whatever name called, shall be registered or be allowed to operate or to function as a political party if the Political Parties Registration Commission is satisfied that—

- (a) membership or leadership of the party is restricted to members of any particular tribal or ethnic group or religious faith; or
- (b) the name, symbol, colour or motto of the party has exclusive or particular significance or connotation to members of any particular tribal or ethnic group or religious faith; or
- (c) the party is formed for the sole purpose of securing or advancing the interests and welfare of a particular tribal or ethnic group, community, geographical area or religious faith; or
- (d) the party does not have a registered office in each of the Provincial Headquarter towns and the Western Area.

(6) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, and in furtherance of the provisions of this section, Parliament may make laws regulating the registration, functions and operation of political parties.

(7) Any association aggrieved by a decision of the Political Parties Registration Commission under this section may appeal to the Supreme Court and the decision of the Court shall be final.

(8) For the purposes of this section the expression—

"association" includes any body of persons, corporate or incorporate, who agree to act together for any common purpose, or an association formed for any ethnic, social, cultural, occupational or religious purpose; and

"political party" means any association registered as a political party as prescribed by subsection (5).

Secret
ballot.

36. At any public elections or referenda voting shall be by secret ballot.

Referen-
ducs.

37. (1) In any referendum held pursuant to an Act of Parliament, every person who is entitled to vote in elections of Members of Parliament shall be entitled to vote at such referendum and no other person may so vote; and the issue in the referendum shall not be regarded as having been approved at that referendum unless it was so approved by the votes of not less than one-half of all such persons or by not less than two-thirds of all the valid votes cast.

(2) The conduct of any referendum for the purposes of subsection (1) shall be under the general supervision of the Electoral Commission and the provisions of Section 38 of this Constitution

shall apply in relation to the exercise by the Electoral Commission of its functions with respect to a referendum as they apply in relation to the exercise of its functions with respect to elections of Members of Parliament.

(3) A Bill for an Act of Parliament under this Section shall not be submitted to the President for his assent unless it is accompanied by a certificate under the hand of the Speaker (or if the Speaker is for any reason unable to exercise the functions of his office, the Deputy Speaker) that the provisions of subsections (1), (2) and (3) of section 106 and, where appropriate, the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) have been complied with.

38. (1) Sierra Leone shall be divided into such constituencies ^{Constituencies and elections.} for the purpose of electing the Members of Parliament referred to in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 74 of this Constitution as the Electoral Commission, acting with the approval of Parliament signified by resolution of Parliament, may prescribe.

(2) Every constituency established under this section shall return one Member of Parliament.

(3) The boundaries of each constituency shall be such that the number of inhabitants thereof is as nearly equal to the population quota as is reasonably practicable:

Provided that the number of inhabitants of such a constituency may be greater or less than the population quota in order to take account of means of communications, geographical features, density of population, the distribution of different communities, the areas and boundaries of the Chiefdoms and other administrative or traditional areas.

(4) The Electoral Commission shall review the division of Sierra Leone into constituencies at intervals of not less than five and not more than seven years, and may alter the constituencies in accordance with the provisions of this section to such extent as it may consider desirable in the light of the review:

Provided that the Commission may at any time carry out such a review and alter the constituencies in accordance with the provisions of this section to such extent as it considers necessary in consequence of any alteration in the number of Members of Parliament referred to in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 74 by reason of the holding of a census of the population of Sierra Leone in pursuance of an Act of Parliament.

(5) Where the boundaries of any constituency are altered in accordance with the provisions of this section, that alteration shall

come into effect upon the next dissolution of Parliament after the alteration has been approved by Parliament.

(6) In this section "population quota" means the number obtained by dividing the number of inhabitants of Sierra Leone by the number of constituencies into which Sierra Leone is divided under this section.

(7) For the purposes of this section the number of inhabitants of Sierra Leone shall be ascertained by reference to the latest census of the population of Sierra Leone held in pursuance of an Act of Parliament or if no census has been so held, by reference to any available information, which in the opinion of the Electoral Commission best indicates the number of those inhabitants.

(8) The registration of voters and the conduct of elections in every constituency shall be subject to the direction and supervision of the Electoral Commission, and it shall cause the register of voters to be revised and reviewed at least once in every three years.

Filling of vacancies

39. (1) When the seat of any member of Parliament becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by election, not later than six months after the vacancy occurs, in accordance with the provisions of law relating to such election:

Provided that if Parliament is dissolved before such election is due to be held, the vacancy shall be filled at the general election.

(2) The Proclamation appointing a date for the holding of an election to fill a vacancy shall be published in the Gazette not less than twenty-one days before the date appointed for holding the election.

CHAPTER V--THE EXECUTIVE

PART I--THE PRESIDENT

Office of President.

40. (1) There shall be a President of the Republic of Sierra Leone who shall be Head of State, the supreme executive authority of the Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

(2) The President shall be the Fountain of Honour and Justice and the symbol of national unity and sovereignty.

(3) The President shall be the guardian of the Constitution and the guarantor of national independence and territorial integrity, and shall ensure respect for treaties and international agreements.

(4) Notwithstanding any provisions of this Constitution or any other law to the contrary, the President shall, without prejudice to any such law as may for the time being be adopted by Parliament